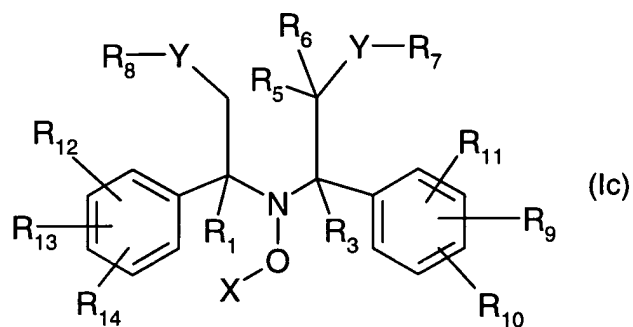
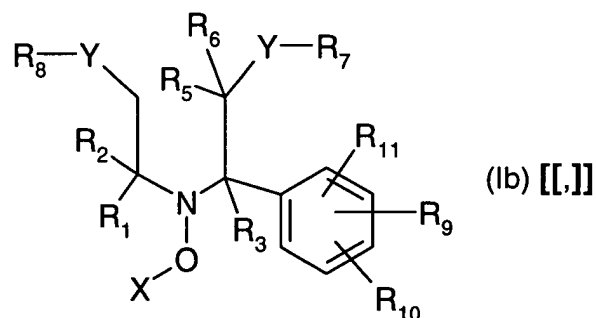
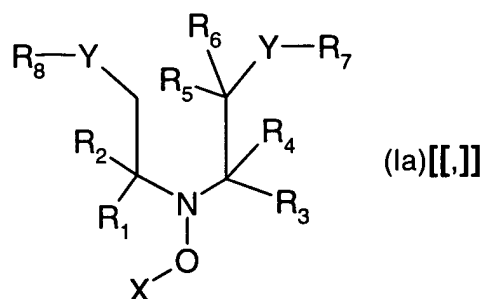


In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula Ia, Ib, or Ic



wherein

Y is O or NR₁₀₁ and R₁₀₁ is H or C₁-C₁₈alkyl or R₇ and/or R₈ and R₁₀₁ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring;

R₁, R₂ and R₃ independently are benzyl, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl which are unsubstituted or substituted by OH or by a group -O-C(O)-R₁₀₂; or C₂-C₁₈alkyl which is interrupted by at least one O atom or a group NR₁₀₂ wherein R₁₀₂ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl;

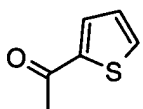
or R₁ and R₂ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group; or in formula Ia R₃ and R₄ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group;

R₄ is C₂-C₁₂alkyl;

R₅ and R₆ are independently H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or phenyl;

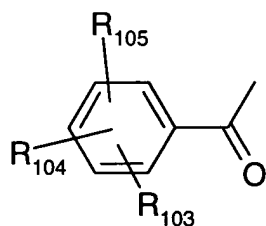
R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group

-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-phenyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH,

-C(O)-C(O)-NH-(C₁-C₁₈alkyl), -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl,  [[,]] or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein R_a, R_b[[,]]

and R_c independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl,

or R₇ and R₈ are the following group



wherein R₁₀₃, R₁₀₄ and R₁₀₅ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkyl, C₁-C₈alkoxy,

C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, -O-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, nitro, cyano or halogen;

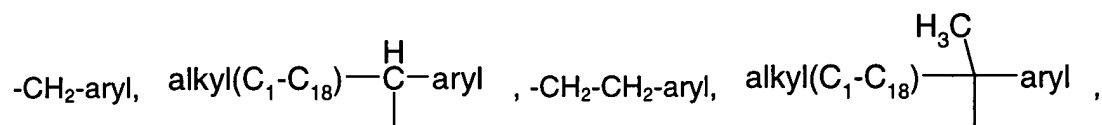
R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃ and R₁₄ independently are H, OH, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkyl, SH, C₁-C₈alkylthio,

-O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, -O-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, nitro, cyano, halogen or a group NR₁₀₆R₁₀₇ wherein R₁₀₆

and R₁₀₇ independently are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring;

and

X is selected from the group consisting of

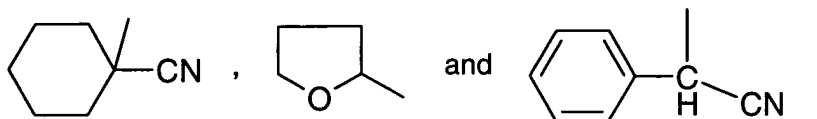
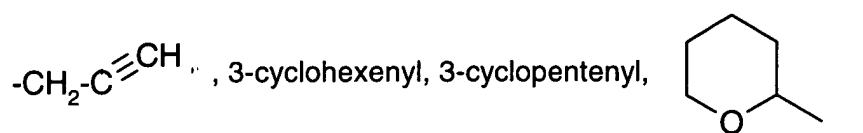


(C₅-C₆cycloalkyl)₂CCN, (C₁-C₁₂alkyl)₂CCN, -CH₂CH=CH₂, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl,

(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-O-R₂₁, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-phenoxy,

(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-N-di(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-CO-NH(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl,

(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-CO-NH₂, -CH₂CH=CH-CH₃, -CH₂-C(CH₃)=CH₂, -CH₂-CH=CH-phenyl,



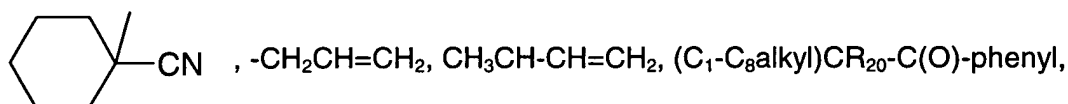
wherein

R₂₀ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂alkyl;

R₂₁ is C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₂-C₁₈alkyl which is interrupted by at least one O atom or a group NR₁₀₂ wherein R₁₀₂ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl;

the alkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or more -OH, -COOH, -O(C₁-C₈alkyl), NR₁₀₆R₁₀₇ or -COR₂₀ groups wherein R₂₀, R₁₀₆ and R₁₀₇ have the meanings as defined above; and the aryl groups are phenyl or naphthyl which are unsubstituted or substituted with C₁-C₁₂alkyl, halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, C₁-C₁₂alkylthio, C₁-C₁₂alkylcarbonyl, glycidyloxy, OH, SH, -COOH or -COO(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-phenyl, CH₃CH-phenyl, (CH₃)₂C-phenyl, (C₅-C₆cycloalkyl)₂CCN, (CH₃)₂CCN,

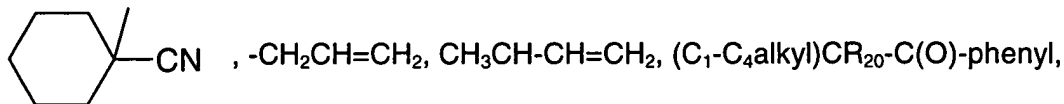


(C₁-C₈)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkoxy, (C₁-C₈)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, (C₁-C₈)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-N-di(C₁-C₈)alkyl, (C₁-C₈)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-NH(C₁-C₈)alkyl and (C₁-C₈)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-NH₂,

wherein

R₂₀ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₈)alkyl.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 2 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-phenyl, CH₃CH-phenyl, (CH₃)₂C-phenyl, (C₅-C₆cycloalkyl)₂CCN, (CH₃)₂CCN,



(C₁-C₄)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkoxy, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkyl,
(C₁-C₄)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-N-di(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-NH(C₁-C₄)alkyl and
(C₁-C₄)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-NH₂,

wherein

R₂₀ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)alkyl.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is O and wherein in formula Ia, R₄ is C₂-C₆alkyl or R₃ and R₄ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a 5 to 7 membered cycloalkyl ring.

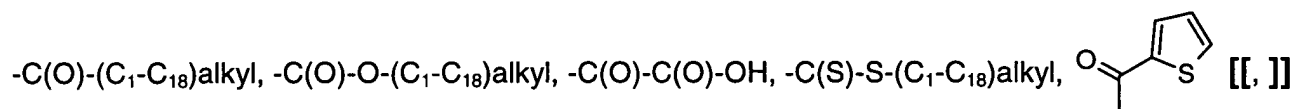
5. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein

R₁, R₂ and R₃ are C₁-C₅alkyl; or in formula Ia, R₃ and R₄ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₆cycloalkyl group;

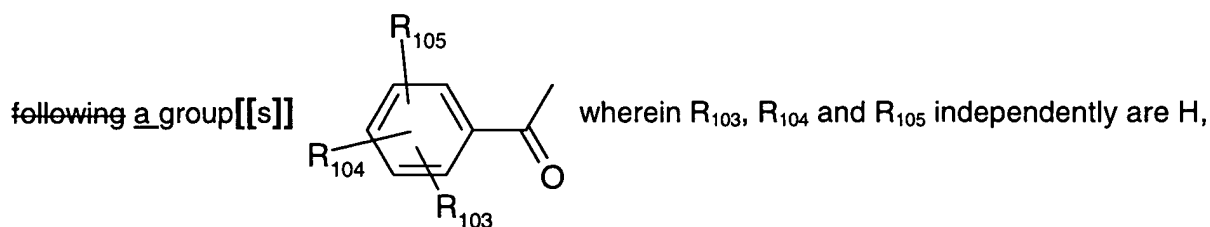
R₄ is C₂-C₆alkyl;

R₅ and R₆ are H;

R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, allyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group



or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein R_a, R_b[[,]]]and R_c independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl, or R₇ and R₈ are ~~one of the~~



C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen[[,]] or C₁-C₈alkyl;

R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen or C₁-C₈alkyl; and

X is as defined in claim 1.

6. (original) A compound of formula Ib or Ic according to claim 1.

7. (currently amended) A compound of formula Ib according to claim 1 wherein

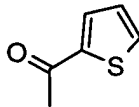
Y is O;

R₁ and R₂ are C₁-C₅alkyl, or together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₇cycloalkyl group;

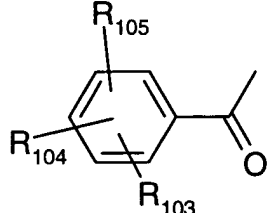
R₃ is methyl, ethyl or propyl;

R₅ and R₆ are H;

R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, allyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group

-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH, -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl,  [[,]]

or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein R_a, R_b[[,]] and R_c independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl, or R₇ and R₈ are ~~at the following~~

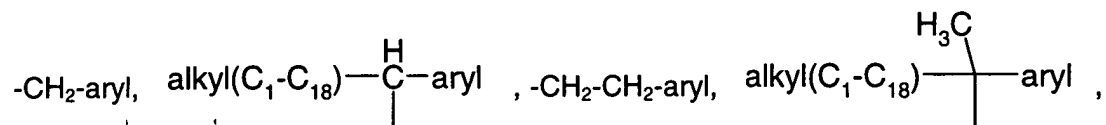
group  wherein R₁₀₃, R₁₀₄ and R₁₀₅ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkoxy,

C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen[[,]] or C₁-C₈alkyl;

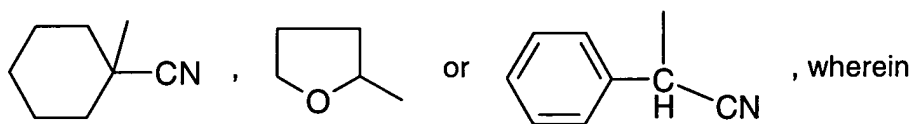
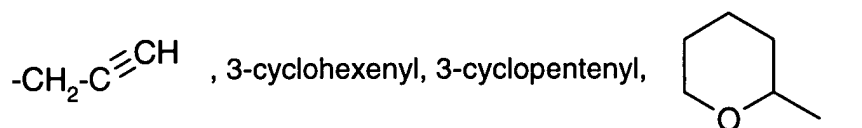
R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen or C₁-C₈alkyl;

and

X is selected from the group consisting of



$(\text{C}_5\text{-C}_6\text{cycloalkyl})_2\text{CCN}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{alkyl})_2\text{CCN}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl-CR}_{20}\text{-C(O)-}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl}$,
 $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl-CR}_{20}\text{-C(O)-}(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10})\text{aryl}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl-CR}_{20}\text{-C(O)-O-R}_{21}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl-CR}_{20}\text{-C(O)-phenoxy}$,
 $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl-CR}_{20}\text{-C(O)-N-di}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl-CR}_{20}\text{-CO-NH}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl}$,
 $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl-CR}_{20}\text{-CO-NH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH-CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}=\text{CH-phenyl}$,



R_{20} is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{alkyl}$;

R_{21} is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}\text{alkyl}$ or $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{18}\text{alkyl}$ which is interrupted by at least one O atom or a group NR_{102} wherein

R_{102} is hydrogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}\text{alkyl}$ or $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}\text{aryl}$;

the alkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or more $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{O}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8\text{alkyl})$,

$\text{NR}_{106}\text{R}_{107}$ or $-\text{COR}_{20}$ groups wherein R_{20} , R_{106} and R_{107} have the meanings as defined above; and

the aryl groups are phenyl or naphthyl which are unsubstituted or substituted with $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{alkyl}$, halogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{alkoxy}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{alkylcarbonyl}$, glycidyloxy, OH , $-\text{COOH}$ or $-\text{COO}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})\text{alkyl}$.

8. (original) A polymerizable composition, comprising

a) at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer, and

b) a compound according to formula (Ia) (Ib) or (Ic) according to claim 1.

9. (original) A process for preparing an oligomer, a cooligomer, a polymer or a copolymer (block or random) by free radical polymerization of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer, which comprises (co)polymerizing the monomer or monomers/oligomers in the presence of an initiator compound of formula (Ia), (Ib) or (Ic) according to claim 1 under reaction conditions capable of

effecting scission of the O-X bond to form two free radicals, the radical $\bullet X$ being capable of initiating polymerization.

10. (currently amended) A process according to claim 9 wherein the scission of the O-X bond is effected by ultrasonic treatment, heating or exposure to electromagnetic radiation $[[.]]$ ranging from γ to microwaves.

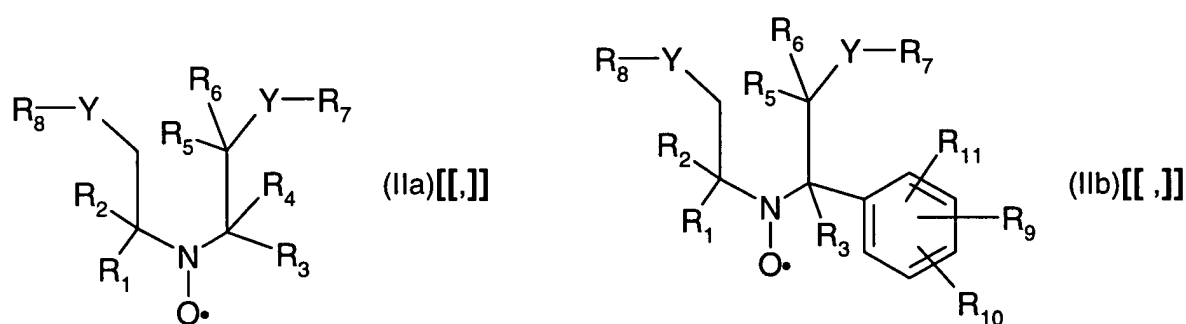
11. (original) A process according to claim 10 wherein the scission of the O-X bond is effected by heating and takes place at a temperature of between 50°C and 160°C.

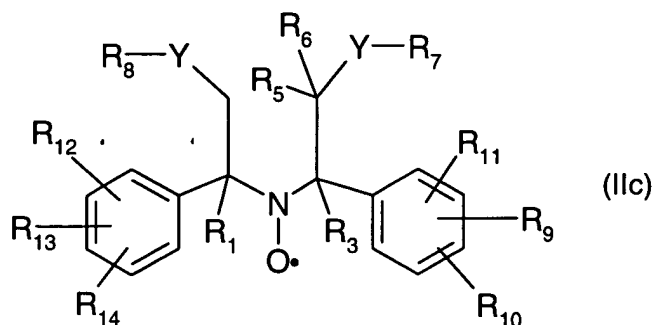
12. (original) A process according to claim 9 wherein the compound is present in an amount from 0.001 mol-% to 20 mol-% , based on the monomer or monomer mixture.

13. (currently amended) A polymerizable composition, comprising

a) at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer, and

b) a compound according to formula (IIa) (IIb) or (IIc)





wherein

Y is O or NR₁₀₁ and R₁₀₁ is H or C₁-C₁₈alkyl or R₇ and/or R₈ and R₁₀₁ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring;

R₁, R₂ and R₃ independently are benzyl, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl which are unsubstituted or substituted by OH or a by group -O-C(O)-R₁₀₂; or C₂-C₁₈alkyl which is interrupted by at least one O atom or a group NR₁₀₂ wherein R₁₀₂ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl;

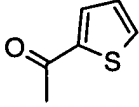
or R₁ and R₂ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group; or in formula Ia R₃ and R₄ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group;

R₄ is C₂-C₁₂alkyl;

R₅ and R₆ are independently H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or phenyl;

R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group

-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-phenyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH,

-C(O)-C(O)-NH-(C₁-C₁₈alkyl), -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl,  $[[\text{ }]]$ or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein R_a, R_b, $[[\text{ }]]$

and R_c independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl, or R₇ and R₈ are ~~the following~~ group

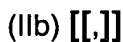


R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃ and R₁₄ independently are H, OH, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkyl, SH, C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, -O-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, nitro, cyano, halogen or a group NR₁₀₆R₁₀₇ wherein R₁₀₆ and R₁₀₇ independently are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring;

c) a source of free radicals capable of initiating polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated monomers.

14. (original) A process for preparing an oligomer, a cooligomer, a polymer or a copolymer (block or random) by free radical polymerization of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer/oligomer, which comprises subjecting the composition according to claim 13 to heat or actinic radiation.

15. (currently amended) A compound of formula IIb



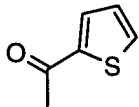
wherein

Y is O or NR₁₀₁ and R₁₀₁ is H or C₁-C₁₈alkyl or R₇ and R₁₀₁ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring;

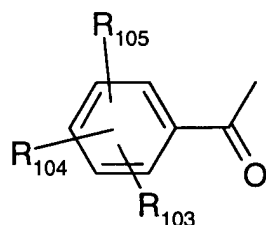
R₁, R₂ and R₃ independently are benzyl, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl which are unsubstituted or substituted by OH or a group -O-C(O)-R₁₀₂; or C₂-C₁₈alkyl which is interrupted by at least one O atom or a group NR₁₀₂ wherein R₁₀₂ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl;
or R₁ and R₂ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group;

R₅ and R₆ are independently H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or phenyl;

R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group
-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-phenyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH,

-C(O)-C(O)-NH-(C₁-C₁₈alkyl), -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl,  **[[,]]** or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein R_a, R_b **[[,]]**

and R_c independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl, or R₇ and R₈ are ~~a~~one of the following group **[[s]]**



wherein R₁₀₃, R₁₀₄ and R₁₀₅ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkyl, C₁-C₈alkoxy,

C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, -O-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, nitro, cyano or halogen; and

R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ independently are H, OH, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkyl, SH, C₁-C₈alkylthio,
-O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, -O-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, nitro, cyano, halogen or a group NR₁₀₆R₁₀₇ wherein R₁₀₆
and R₁₀₇ independently are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl or together with the nitrogen atom to
which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring.

16. (currently amended) A compound of formula IIb according to claim 15 wherein

Y is O;

R₁ and R₂ are -CH₃, or together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₇cycloalkyl
group;

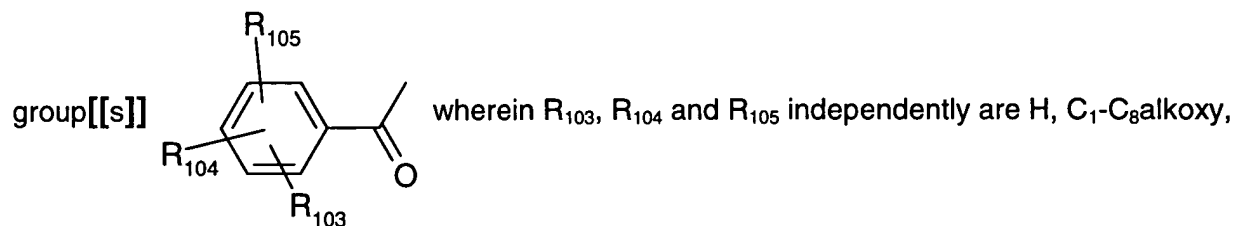
R₃ is methyl, ethyl or propyl;

R₅ and R₆ are H;

R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, allyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group

-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH, -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl ~~[[,]]~~ or -SiR_aR_bR_c

wherein R_a ~~[[,]]~~ R_b ~~[[,]]~~ and R_c independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl, or R₇ and R₈ are ~~a~~ ~~one of the following~~



C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen ~~[[,]]~~ or C₁-C₈alkyl; and

R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen or C₁-C₈alkyl.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A polymer or copolymer obtainable by a process according to claim 9 ~~[[or 14]]~~.

20. (new) A polymer or copolymer obtainable by a process according to claim 14.